(c) and (d) No, Sir. An Amount of Rs. 918.57 lakhs has been approved for Gujarat under NPEGEL for the financial year 2006-07.

Misappropriation of funds under DPEP

2004. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether crores of rupees were spent on activities not covered under the norms of District Primary Education Programme (DPEP);

(b) whether crores of rupees were either diverted to other schemes or were kept in civil deposits;

(c) whether any action against the officers responsible for misutilizing and for diverting DPEP funds has been taken; and

(d) the steps taken to ensure that DPEP funds are not misutilized/ diverted hampering the performance of DPEP?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) Some instances of diversion of funds and keeping of funds in civil deposits in respect of DPEP-I and DPEP-II projects did come to notice in year 2000. The matters were immediately addressed. Also states with DPEP programmes were strictly instructed to follow the financial parameters of the DPEP guidelines and ensure proper utilization of funds.

Shortage of teachers in colleges

2005. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to financial constraints, not even a single college teacher has been appointed in a number of States in spite of the fact that many new high level courses have been started;

(b) if so, whether it is adversely affecting the quality of higher education; and

(c) whether the UGC is thinking of utilising Research Students for teaching work to tide over this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD.ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) It has been reported by University Grants Commission (UGC) that no such specific information has come to its notice. However, being aware of the general position regarding vacancies in the University System, UGC has issued a circular advising all the universities to make use of the existing provisions for re-employment of superanuated teachers upto the age of 65 years and the State Governments to take immediate action for filling up the vacant posts as per the norms of the Commission. The Central Government has also written to State Governments in this regard.

(c) There is not such proposal.

Status of MAS, Shimla

2006. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the major functions and activities of MAS., Shimla and how it differs from other research and educational institutions;

(b) whether it is a fact that no certificates or authentications are issued to those scholars who successfully complete their project; if so, how it is recognized outside; and

(c) what is the current policy of Government to ensure regional balance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) The primary role of the Indian Institute of Advanced Study (HAS), Shimla is to promote a free creative enquiry into the fundamental themes and problems of life and thought, which have deep human significance, The function of the Institute is to provide an environment suitable for academic research and to undertake, organize, guide and promote, advanced research in selected subjects in the Humanities, Indian Culture, Comparative Religion, Social Sciences, Natural Sciences, and such other areas, as the Institute may, from time to time, decide. Unlike conventional educational institutions, the MAS, Shimla is not a degree-awarding teaching institution. The work of the scholars of the HAS is recognized by the publication of their work, as is the case of scholars pursuing research after earning their degrees.